

## REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 19-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kase (U.S. Patent 5,861,348). This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly in light of amended independent claim 19.

Applicant's claim 19 recites:

An adhesive tape comprising: a stretch base material; an adhesive layer comprising a plurality of grooves disposed on said base material, wherein said grooves extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of said tape; said grooves not containing adhesive thereby facilitating breathability; and said grooves not extending across the entire width of said tape but having adhesive between said grooves.

Nowhere does Kase disclose or even contemplate an adhesive tape comprising grooves that extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of the tape as recited in Applicant's claims. In sharp contrast, Kase teaches "pressure-sensitive adhesive layers are formed so that they meander left and right along the length of the tape". See Kase Abstract. Kase further teaches, "a plurality of wavy strip-shaped pressure-sensitive adhesive layers". See Col. 6, lines 31-32. Thus, Kase teaches away from Applicant's claimed grooves that extend horizontally in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction, since the adhesive layer in Kase is wave shaped. The wave shaped adhesive layers of Kase meander vertically down the longitudinal direction of the tape, which is opposite of Applicant's recited claims. None of the wave shapes extend horizontally in the width direction of the tape as recited by Applicant. Therefore, Kase fails to teach each and every element of Applicant's recited claims.

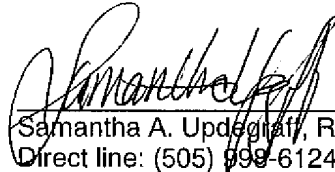
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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